AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for managing ~~situations of~~ multiple <u>requests of span and ring</u> ~~events~~ <u>protections</u> ~~of different type~~ in a telecommunications network with a <u>four-fibers</u> ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism in which signals arranged as frames of bytes are transmitted and in which the transmitted frames comprise a <u>first</u> pair of ~~event signalling~~ bytes <u>for indicating the request of ring protection of at least one type</u>, wherein the method further comprises the step of providing at least one additional pair of ~~event signalling~~ bytes in the transmitted frames, ~~the first pair of event signalling bytes being used for signalling events of a first type, whereas~~ the at least one additional pair of ~~event signalling~~ bytes being used for ~~signalling events of a second type~~ <u>indicating the requests of span protections of at least two different types at the same time of the request of ring protection</u>.

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said telecommunications network is a transoceanic optical network ~~comprising nodes connected through fiber spans having at least four fibers comprising working channels and protection channels~~.

Claims 5-7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended): The method according to claim <u>1</u>~~5~~, wherein ~~it~~ <u>the network</u> includes at least one path protected by the traffic protection mechanism, the method <u>~~comprises~~</u>

comprising the additional steps of processing ~~the information carried by~~ the first pair of ~~event~~

~~signalling~~ bytes and ~~by~~ the at least one additional pair of ~~event signalling~~ bytes ~~to perform~~

~~operations designed, in case of multiple events of different type, to save as much traffic as~~

~~possible~~ and evaluating whether the at least one path can be protected taking into account the

processed bytes.

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended): A telecommunication signal ~~frame structure~~ for a

telecommunications network with a four-fibres ring topology protected by a traffic protection

mechanism, the signal comprising a first pair of bytes used for ~~signalling events~~ indicating a

request of ring protection of at least one type, wherein it further comprises at least one additional

pair of bytes used for ~~signalling events, the first pair of bytes being used for signalling events of~~

~~a first type only whereas the at least one additional pair of bytes being used for signalling events~~

~~of a second type only~~ indicating requests of span protections of at least two different types at the

same time of the request of ring protection.

Claims 11 and 12 (cancelled).

13. (original): A network element for a telecommunications network with a four-fibres

ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism, wherein signals arranged as frames

travelling through said network, ~~said network comprising:~~

　　　~~nodes or network elements; and~~

　　　~~fiber spans, said fibers spans connecting the network elements to form a ring, the~~

　　　　　~~network element comprising means for receiving signal frames comprising first~~

　　　　　~~event signalling bytes,~~ the network element ~~further~~ comprising

means for receiving signal frames, the signal frames including at least one additional pair of event signalling bytes, the a first pair of event signalling bytes being used for signalling events of a first for indicating a request of ring protection of at least one type type whereas the and including at least one additional pair of event signalling bytes being used for signalling events of a second type for indicating requests of span protections of at least two different types at the same time of the request of ring protection.

14. (currently amended): A computer program product comprising computer program code adapted to perform all steps of the method according to claims 1, 4, or 8 when said program is run on a computer.

15. (currently amended): A computer readable medium having a program recorded thereon, said computer readable medium comprising computer program code adapted to perform all steps of the method according to claims 1, 4, or 8 when said program is run on a computer.

16. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one additional pair of bytes are not yet reserved for other purposes.